

# Old Maine beckons

Maine, one of the last remaining rugged areas in the United States, may seem miles from nowhere but it's a short 18-hour drive from Michigan.

Filled with some magnificent state parks, tourists are fast becoming believers that Maine license plates accurately describe it as the "Vacationland" of the East.

One highlight in the state is Baxter State Park, which is the site for the famous Mt. Katahdin, the highest point in Maine.

Its peak is 5,273 feet above sea level, and it is said that those on top of the mountain are the first to see the sun rise in the United States.

The park is surrounded by woodlands, basically used by lumber companies. There are few towns in the area, but the park is easily accessible via state highway I-95.

Because the area is sparsely populated, moose, deer and bear, as well as other wild animals, can be found wandering free in the park area.

For those more adventurous, there is the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, a short drive northwest of Baxter's Park.

Access to the wilderness waterway is through private roads.

The northern area of Maine is

famous for its fishing. The landlocked salmon is a special favorite.

Landscape in the state park consists of several mountains, huge boulders, hills and rushing mountain streams, pure enough to drink, without purification.

The Appalachian Trail, which winds through mountain ranges well into the South, begins in the Baxter Park area.

The rugged coastline has a number of the country's oldest and most charming small towns. State route 1 winds up the coast from Kittery in the south to Eastport which borders on New Brunswick, Canada.

Along the way are Kennebunkport with its Trolley Museum (a funny thing to find in Maine which has depended practically its entire life on the sea).

At Bath, some of the country's largest shipbuilding facilities can be spied. The town nestles in between the water and rolling hills.

Farther up the coast are Rockport and Camden, with their artist colonies and many art outlets.

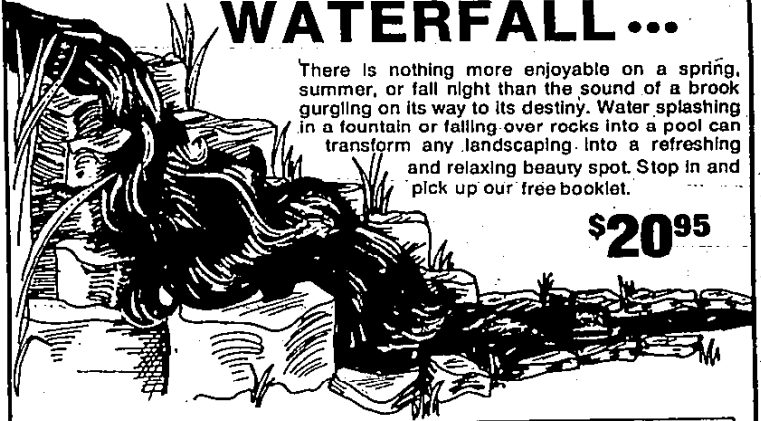
Bar Harbor is Maine's answer to Rhode Island's Newport and New York's the Haptoms with summer homes of famous people and yachts galore in a gorgeous setting.

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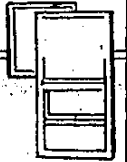
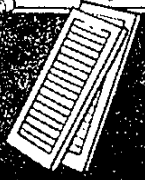
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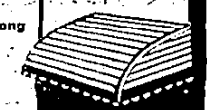
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